

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9371

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, SY

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ISA DARWISH, MINISTER OF PETROLEUM

REF: (A) STATE 213660, (B) DAMASCUS 5219

1. ISA DARWISH IS ONE OF THE FEW ALAWITE MINISTERS IN NEW CABINET OF ABD AL-RAHMAN KHULAYFAWI. COMMERICAL OFFICER LEARNED FROM LOCSE FRIEND OF DARWISH, AT KHUMASSIYAH TEXTILE PLANT (UNITED COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL CORP) FOLLOWING INFORMATION: DRAWISH SEEMS RATHER WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD U.S. AND SHOULD GET ALONG WELL WITH AMERICANS IN HIS NEW JOB. HE HAS NO BACKGROUND IN PTEROLEUM WORK BUT IS CONSIDERED STRONG ADMINISTRATOR. HE HAS VISITED EUROPE (FOR EITHER TOURISM PURPOSES OR ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS) AND HAS ALSO TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA AND SOVIET UNION ON BAATH PARTY MISSIONS. HE SPEAKS NO ENGLISH AND VERY LITTLE FRENCH. HE IS REGARDED AS CONSERVATIVE IN FAMILY MATTERS AND PREFERS THAT HIS WIFE NOT ACCOMPANY HIM TO SOCIAL GATHERINGS WITH FOREIGNERS.
2. EMBOFFS WHO MET WITH DARWISH EVENING AUG. 31 TO REQUEST HIS ASSISTANCE IN RESUPPLY AMERICAN UNIV. OF BEIRUT HOSPITAL WITH GENERATOR FUEL REPORTED HIS ATTITUDE AS VERY HELPFUL AND COOPERATIVE. DARWISH ACTED WITH COMPETENCE AND DECISIVENESS IN THIS PARTICULAR MATTER.

3. NO PHOTO OF DARWISH IS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE, BUT MINISTER IS OF MEDIUM HEIGHT AND BUILD, MOUSTACHE, DOES NOT WEAR GLASSES.

MURPHY

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